

## **Funding**

This document is a compilation of funding suggestions from the E-scrap subgroups. There are several things to consider when discussing funding sources. Listed below are the issues that the subgroups have brought up so far:

- Retailers hesitate or refuse to get involved in E-scrap recycling. They could have a store employee make determinations (household vs. business waste) on the materials that come in, but that is too much responsibility for hourly wage employee.
- At some collections, materials are tested to see if they are working or not. The need for technical proficiency by some staff at these collection points can be costly. Another is the cost associated with the distances that must be traveled to get e-waste to the processors or end markets.
- The processors want to make e-waste processing economically sustainable in order to help prevent processing companies from cutting corners. The profit margin for processing is very thin to not sustainable. It is labor intensive to dismantle e-waste and difficult to track the recycling streams after processing. There are issues with data security and making sure that the e-waste is actually being processed (sham recycling).
- Disposition facilities handle many different types of electronics and materials in each type of electronics. It is hard to recycle some plastics. There are also limited markets for the recycled materials.

**\*\*Rural areas have fewer options for electronics recycling and probably greater costs due to distance from processors or end markets. A suggestion was made to approach rural electric cooperatives as potential collectors.**

### **Advanced Recycling/Core Charge/Point of Sale Fee**

A fee would be assessed when the product is purchased. The thought being that consumers want that computer, so they would be willing to pay a little extra fee to get it. When consumers want to get rid of the computer, it has no value to them, so they would be less willing to pay a fee. It would help be a market driver in that it would keep the product moving.

The processing companies would be able to dip into the money on a percent basis. An advanced recycling fee would need to be a private/public collaboration. California has an advanced recycling fee (ARF); everybody gets a cut – collectors, retailers, processors – but there are detractors. That way the purchaser does not pay the collection or processing companies to recycle it. The purchaser could also get money back when they recycle it, thus promoting recycling.

**Things to Think About:**

1. A fee charged at the retail location may make them “the bad guy.” They feel consumers would view it as a tax.
2. There were concerns that if Missouri has a fee, more retail business will go to neighboring states, particularly Kansas or Illinois, because of the large concentration of population in the St. Louis and Kansas City areas.
3. How do you address Internet sales? Would this be a way around the fee?

**Collection Fee**

A fee would be assessed when the product is recycled, whether it is at the collection center or processors. The thought being that consumers want to do the right thing and recycle.

**Recycling Coupon**

- When an individual properly recycles an old computer, they receive a coupon for money off a new computer.
- Included a recycling coupon with new computers.
- Buy a certificate at time of purchase, like an extended warranty, for e-product disposal or recycling.

**Grants/ Corporate Sponsorship**

- Start up grants for equipment.
- Approach businesses that normally spend money on advertising and ask them to help promote and support collections for good public relations. If large companies stopped dropping profit margins on their products, thereby edging out smaller stores, these stores would have the money to fund collection.

**Tax Credits**

- Tax credits are of limited value for individual consumers.
- Tax credit for the processing companies.

**Pollution Credit Trading**